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**EFFICIENT
PRODUCTION
is the farmer's job**

Follow the seven steps. You'll make more money. You'll help to keep cotton a good cash crop. Consider the other choices you have. Talk and act with your neighbors.

*See or write
your county agri-
cultural agent for
local help on the
seven steps in
your community.*

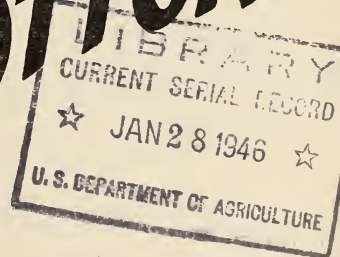


BALANCED FARMING



**STEPS
TO HELP YOU**

**Face the
Future
with
COTTON**



U. S. Department of Agriculture and
State Extension Services of the
South Cooperating

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On Your Own Farm

Increasing production of foreign cotton, rayon, and other fiber products brings American-grown cotton face to face with a future beset with problems. You will have to work with other farmers and the Government in solving some of these problems. About the others you can do much on your own farm.

Maybe you can save that extra labor new and improved machines can do. Maybe you can save that one bale in seven the insects take. You and your ginner can save the loss in quality that comes from bad ginning. You can protect and improve your soil and get better yields. You can profit by cooperating with other farmers. You can grow uniform cotton on a community basis, the kind of cotton the market will pay more for.

Here are seven steps that will help you. They lead to balanced farming, efficient production, better cotton, and higher profits for you.



1. FIT COTTON INTO BALANCED FARMING

Plant cotton only on land best suited to cotton, considering the land needed for other crops. Plan a combination of other crops, pasture, feed crops, and livestock that will make fullest use all the year of your soil, labor, stock, and equipment. Plan cotton acreage in line with market demands. One-crop cotton farming robs the soil and does not provide uniform work throughout the year. Growing only cotton for cash is like playing a violin with one string. When the string breaks, the music stops.



2. TAKE CARE OF YOUR SOIL

The soil is the foundation of the farm family's living. How well it yields will depend on how well you treat it. Your soil is like a bank account. Build it up. You can't afford to grow cotton and other row crops on the wrong land or in the wrong way. If you do, you will lose topsoil, the plant food in the soil, and the fertilizer you apply. Put every acre to its best practical use. Treat each area according to its needs. Use crop rotation, cover crops, grassed waterways, contour farming, and terraces, and fertilize and lime where needed. Put steep or badly washed land in permanent cover crops or trees. Drain wet land.

3. GET TOGETHER ON THE BEST VARIETY

Plant a variety of cotton that will give high yields, strong fiber, and good staple. Mills require uniform lots of cotton. When all farmers in the community grow the same kind of cotton they have more uniform cotton, and that attracts buyers. They get a premium price. They also find it easier to keep seed pure at the gin and get free Government classing. Go to a one-variety community and see for yourself.



4. MAKE YOUR LABOR COUNT

What you do to increase yields usually lowers costs. Labor is one of your biggest costs in growing and picking cotton. Study every job. Use methods and improved machinery that will save labor. Such things as where you place your fertilizer, delinting and treating seed, using power machinery, doing each job at the right time, and many simple labor-saving short cuts may mean the difference between profit and loss.



5. CONTROL INSECTS AND DISEASES

Cotton insects and diseases are profit-clippers. Insects such as boll weevils, aphids, bollworms, flea hoppers, plant bugs, and leaf worms destroy one bale for every seven the



farmer gets. Cotton diseases take another high toll. You can reduce loss by examining your plants and using the right poison when needed. Get your ginner to destroy insects in gin trash. Treat planting seed. Use wilt-resistant varieties. Use good growing practices that give strong plants.

6. PICK AND GIN FOR HIGH GRADE

Too much of our cotton is low grade. There is not enough high-grade, clean white cotton to meet market demands. You will get a higher price for the higher grades. Pick cotton as dry as possible. Keep trash out. Pick before weather damage. Don't mix low-grade and high-grade seed cotton. See that your ginner uses ginning methods and equipment that protect the quality.



7. SELL FOR GRADE, STAPLE, AND VARIETY VALUE

Not all cotton is alike. The longer-staple, stronger-fiber, better-spinning varieties and high-grade, clean white lints are worth more. When you've produced that kind, get it classed for grade and staple. Know its value. Watch market prices. Don't overlook your seed. Handle and store it so that it will produce high-grade oil, feed, and lint. Sell seed to you when you can, on a grade basis.



Cotton Faces the Future

The seven steps in this leaflet are things you can do on your own cotton farm. They are important. Our cotton future depends a lot on how efficiently we produce cotton and how good it is. It also depends on how well we face and meet other cotton problems.

We have about a year's crop of cotton on hand. A lot of it is low grade. Our foreign markets are uncertain. Other countries are growing more cotton, some of them growing cotton as good as ours, cheaper than we are. Rayon, paper, and other products are taking the place of cotton in many uses.

Every cotton farmer needs to think seriously about these facts. But the problems of balancing farming, efficient production, and better quality cotton you can tackle right now on your own farm.


Clinton Anderson
Secretary of Agriculture.